

Women of the West

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Book Notices

Truly a book worthy of the attention of anyone ever associated with the University of Iowa.

From Rift to Drift: Iowa's Story in Stone, by Jack C. Troeger. (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1983. pp. 152, illustrations, list of sources, index, \$14.95 cloth.)

The author, an earth science teacher in the Ames Community School district, offers a minicourse in geology written in everyday terms. It is the only book available on Iowa's geological past written as much for the general public as for an earth science class. The numerous illustrations are most helpful and most of the photos were taken by the author himself. This slim volume should be well utilized in the public schools around the state and is exciting reading to anyone interested in the state's rocky past.

Fossils of Iowa: Field Guide to Paleozoic Deposits, by Robert C. Wolf, illustrations by Carol Ann Ratcliff. (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1983. pp. 198, illustrations, glossary, references, index, \$9.95 paper.)

Written primarily for amateurs and students of paleontology, this work provides precise geographic locations of more than 150 geological sites throughout Iowa and parts of Nebraska and Minnesota. The fossils likely to be found in each site are listed and illustrated at the end of the book. The author, a native of Pocahontas, has over six years of intensive field work as well as some sixteen years of personal collecting in Paleozoic fossils of invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants. Particularly useful for the amateur geologist is a listing of a series of selected geological surveys available from the state. For the fossil collector and those interested in paleontology this is a useful guide.

Women of the West, by Cathy Luchetti in collaboration with Carol Olwell. (St. George, UT: Antelope Island Press, 1982. pp. 240, photographs, chronology, bibliography, sources, \$25.00 cloth.)

The author did not intend for this to be an academic history, but a document of human experience. It tells the story of eleven women who traveled to the vast reaches of the American West—women of varying economic, social, racial, and religious backgrounds. This is a most handsome volume with over 140 photographs of women at work and play gathered from over forty universities, historical societies, and public libraries in sixteen states; many have never been published

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before. This is one of the most exquisitely produced books on this topic and well worth the price. The authors are to be commended for such a beautiful volume.

Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey, by Lillian Schlissel. (New York: Schocken Books, Inc., 1983. pp. 262, illustrations, bibliography, index, \$16.95 cloth, \$8.95 paper.)

The author, director of American Studies at Brooklyn College, has combed archives for diaries and letters of women who made the great overland migration between 1840 and 1870. The result is a fascinating book which is richly enhanced by never before published photographs. Over one hundred diaries were consulted in the research of this book and to give the reader a flavor of the actual writings, the author has reproduced in their entirety four diaries (one of which should be of particular interest to Iowans since it recounts a journey from Mitchell, Iowa to California). This book reveals an aspect of the westward saga seldom seen until recently and never in such depth. The book is a credit to the author and publisher and certainly moderately priced.

Bearing Witness: A Photographic Chronicle of American Life, 1860-1945, by Michael Lesy. (New York: Pantheon, pp. 200, illustrations, \$27.50 cloth.)

The photographs are arranged in a chronological and thematic fashion and trace the visual history of our nation from the Civil War through World War II. Many of the major events are portrayed, but there are also less traditional scenes that depict city life, industry, agriculture, and everyday life. The author, who also produced *Wisconsin Death Trip*, presents a startling new vision of America.

The Mormon Graphic Image, 1834-1914: Cartoons, Caricatures, and Illustrations, by Gary L. Bunker and Davis Bitton. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1983. pp. 154, illustrations, bibliography, index, \$19.95 cloth.)

Mormonism as perceived by our society is full of misrepresentations and misunderstanding. From its very beginning, this religious movement was an unpopular one and even with the official discontinuation of the practice of polygamy in 1890, the followers of Joseph Smith were still objects of scorn and derision. The authors of this fascinating work, both Mormons, have searched for and collected into

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